

### REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowance of all pending claims 1-38 over prior art is acknowledged and appreciated.

The Specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Fig. 1 has also been amended to overcome the objection.

Fig. 2 is objected to for not being labeled as prior art. Fig. 2 shows an example of the level of correction of a design layout achieved by the present invention (see Specification, page 4, lines 8-14). Therefore, the drawings shown in Figs. 2(a)-2(c) are not prior art. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended as required by the Examiner with the exception of the requirement that a "clear definition of  $k$  and its range" be provided in claims 10, 21, 32 and 37. Applicants respectfully submit that " $k$ " is defined together in the expression  $\mu_i + k\sigma_i$ , which denotes a certain level of parametric yield.

Claim 19 has been further amended to correct an obvious and inadvertent error. No new issue has been raised.

The subject application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1.

Attachments: (1) Replacement Sheet  
(1) Annotated Sheet

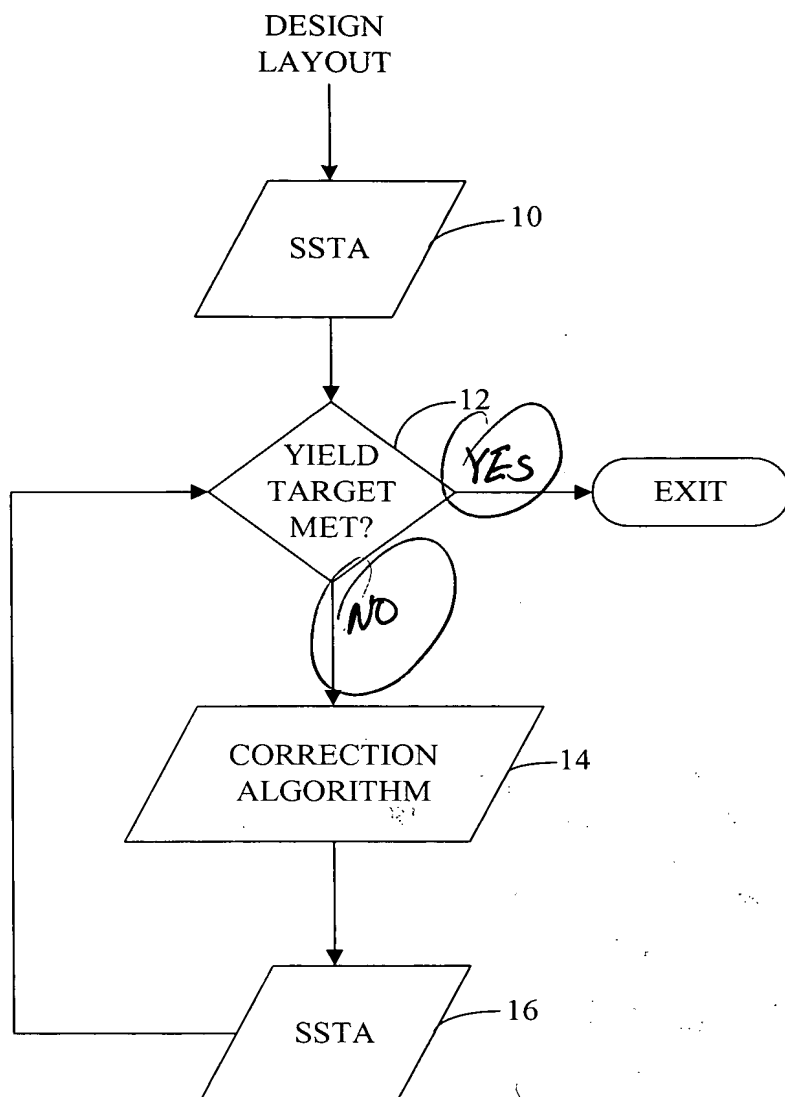
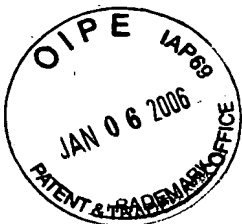


FIG. 1